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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 NIC-01 ACDA-05 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-02

PRS-01 CPR-01 EURE-00 /057 W
---------- 026180
P R 281441Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 605
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5461

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, US
SUBJECT: GDR CELEBRATION OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF HUNGARY

REF A) STATE 069945; B) STATE 057493

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE FROM GDR PROTOCOL SECTION IN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INVITING THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS WIFE TO ATTEND A CELEBRATION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF HUNGARY IN 1945. THIS EVENT IS TO TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 4, 1975 AT THE VOLKSBUEHNE IN EAST BERLIN. TELEPHONIC RESPONSE TO THE NOTE IS REQUESTED BY MID-AFTERNOON ON APRIL 2, 1975.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS THE FOLLOWING THOUGHTS REGARDING THIS EVENT: A) IT IS PRIMARILY AN EVENT OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR GDR/HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH U.S.-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS; B) WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE

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EXTENT TO WHICH U.S. ARMED FORCES WERE DIRECTLY

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INVOLVED IN THE LIBERATION OF HUNGARY IN WORLD WAR II;
IN ANY EVENT, THE RED ARMY ROLE IS CERTAIN TO BE EMPHASIZED
WITH LITTLE, IF ANY, MENTION OF THE WESTERN ALLIES IN
THIS CONTECT; C) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AN ANTI-FRG THEME
WILL BE INTRODUCED, WITH WHICH WE WOULD NOT WANT TO BE
ASSOCIATED; D) IT MAY HAVE AMILITARY FLAVOR OUT OF
KEEPING WITH THE ALLIED POSITION ON THE DEMILITARIZED
STATUS OF GREATER BERLIN; AND E) WE WISH OUR ACTIONS TO
BE CONSISTENT WITH GENERAL GUIDANCE THAT US REPRESENTA-
TIVES SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY 30TH V-E ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS WHICH TAKE PLACE ON GERMAN TERRITORY, (REF B).

3. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUBJECT INVITATION WILL BE FORE-
RUNNER OF SIMILAR INVITATIONS COMMEMORATING 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN
COUNTRIES. IN DECIDING WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS
CELEBRATION, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE SIMILAR
INVITATIONS (FOR EXAMPEL, COMMEMORATION OF LIBERATION
OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA) WHERE AMBASSADOR'S PRESENCE COULD BE
APPROPRIATE. IN THE ABSENCE OF BLANKET INSTRUCTIONS,
WE WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT ABOUT SUCH INVITATIONS AND
PROPOSE RESPONSES IN LIGHT OF THEMES WHICH DEVELOP IN
FORTHCOMING CELEBRATION OF HUNGARIAN LIBERATION AND
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS RELEVANT TO SPECIFIC CELEBRATIONS.

4. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDS THAT AMBASSADOR
DECLINE INVITATION TO ATTEND APRIL 4 CEREMONY ON
GROUNDS THAT HE HAS CONFLICITING ENGAGEMENT. WE ARE
IN CONTACT WITH OUR BRITISH AND FRENCH COLLEAGUES ON THIS
SUBJECT AND WILL INFORM THEM OF OUR DECISION ONCE
DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED. REQUEST GUIDANCE BY
COB, MARCH 31.COOPER

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